

'Hand-list' (iii. p. 107); but there can be no doubt that the birds before me are referable to his *P. torquata*.

Besides the New Hebrides Group, this bird occurs in the Fiji Islands, whence we have specimens from Viti Levu, collected by Kleinschmidt in 1878.

ÆSTRELATA FULIGINOSA.

Procellaria fuliginosa, Kuhl; Buller, B. N. Zeal. p. 303, pl.

Procellaria macroptera, Gould, Handb. B. Austr. ii. p. 449.

Procellaria gouldi, Hutton; Buller, B. N. Zeal. p. 308.

Sir W. Buller's collection contains two specimens attributed to *P. gouldi*, Hutton. They agree with one in the British Museum from the coast of Tasmania, referred by Gould to *P. macroptera*, Smith. These I have compared with a large series from the South Atlantic Ocean, the Cape Seas, and elsewhere; and though they are rather larger and (especially the New-Zealand specimens) have stronger bills, I do not think the differences sufficiently constant or important to justify the recognition of more than one form of this widely ranging species. Some stress has been laid upon the greyness of the face of *P. gouldi*; but this character, too, fails, and a specimen before me with a short wing has the chin white.

XXXVII.—Notices of recent Ornithological Publications.

[Continued from p. 282.]

59. *Bartlett on Weavers and Finches.*

[A Monograph of the Weaver-Birds, Ploceidæ, and arboreal and terrestrial Finches, Fringillidæ. By Edward Bartlett. Parts I., II. 4to. Maidstone: 1888.]

We wish every success to Mr. Edward Bartlett in his efforts to realize a long-cherished plan to produce an illustrated Monograph of the Ploceidæ and Fringillidæ. The undertaking is arduous, as both families are numerous and contain many difficult genera. In the two parts already issued the following species are figured:—

PART I.—Feb. 29, 1888.

Textor dinamelli.

Paroaria cucullata.

—— boehmi.

Pyrrhula nipalensis.

Chrysomitris atrata.

Munia oryzivora.

PART II.—April 30, 1888.

Cardinalis virginianus.

Textor panicivora.

Chrysomitris uropygialis.

—— albirostris.

Passer domesticus.

The synonymy of each bird is fully given and followed by a short description; after which come notes on the history and habits, and a list of specimens examined. The coloured figures are neatly drawn by Mr. F. W. Frohawk.

60. *Berlepsch on the Colombian Trochilidæ.*

[Kritische Uebersicht der in den sogenannten Bogota-collectionen (S. O. Colombia) vorkommenden Colibri-Arten und Beschreibung eines neuen Colibri (*Cyanolesbia nehrkorni*), von Hans von Berlepsch. Journ. f. Orn. 1887, p. 313.]

This is an excellent and accurate list of the 95 species of Humming-birds that occur in what are commonly called "Bogota" collections, that is, amongst the skins brought into the capital of the Colombian Republic by the native collectors from the surrounding districts. The skins, as is well known to ornithologists, are immediately recognizable by their peculiar preparation. A new species is described as *Cyanolesbia nehrkorni*, from a single specimen in the author's collection.

61. *Bocage on additions to the Avifauna of St. Thomas, West Africa.*

[Additamento á fauna ornithologica de S. Thomé. Por J. v. Barboza du Bocage. Journ. Sci. Math. Phys. e Nat. Lisboa, no. xlv. p. 81.]

In a collection lately received by the Coimbra Museum from the West-African Island of St. Thomas are examples of six species. Two of them, *Turturæna malherbii* and *Columba arquatrix*, var., are new to the avifauna of this island.

62. *Bocage on Birds from Equatorial Africa.*

[Sur quelques oiseaux recueillis dans l'Afrique équatoriale (pays du Muata-Yamvo) par M. A. Sésinando Marques. Par J. v. Barboza du Bocage. Journ. Sci. Math. Phys. e Nat. Lisboa, no. xlv. p. 84.]

This short paper gives an account of six species, of which two (*Syrnium bohdorfi* and *Corethrura pulchra*) are additions to the ornithology of Angola. The specimens were collected by M. A. Sésinando Marques in the territory of Muata-Yamvo.

63. *Bull on the Birds of Herefordshire.*

[Notes on the Birds of Herefordshire. Contributed by members of the Woolhope Club. Collected and arranged by the late Henry Graves Bull. 8vo. London and Hereford: 1888.]

Some information is no doubt to be gleaned from this work, although not a few sad instances of ignorance and credulity are to be met with. We may cite the statements that the Redwing has bred near Ross, and that the Great Black Woodpecker has several times been observed in Herefordshire. After these, we should like stronger evidence than mere assertion with regard to the Sooty Tern, said to have been picked up dead near Marston in May 1885. About one third of the volume is made up of quotations from Shakespeare and other poets.

64. *Buller's 'Birds of New Zealand.'*

[A History of the Birds of New Zealand. By Sir Walter Lawry Buller. Parts II.-VI., 1887-88. Folio. London.]

Sir Walter Buller has already made great progress with his new 'History of the Birds of New Zealand,' of which it is only necessary to say that the work is as well done as might have been expected from the author's unrivalled acquaintance with the subject. Of the 13 parts which will complete the work, six are already issued. The first part was noticed in our January number (*Ibis*, 1888, p. 133). The next five parts contain illustrations of the following species:—

PART II.—October 1887.

- | | |
|----------------------------------|--|
| Plate 1. <i>Miro australis</i> . | Plate 3. <i>Sphenœacus punctatus</i> . |
| —— <i>albifrons</i> . | <i>Anthus novæ zealandiæ</i> . |
| <i>Myiomoira toitoi</i> . | Plate 4. <i>Rhipidura flabellifera</i> . |
| —— <i>macrocephala</i> . | —— <i>fuliginosa</i> . |
- Plate 2. *Certhiparus novæ zealandiæ*.
Clitonyx albicapilla.
 —— *ochrocephala*.

PART III.—January 1888.

- | | |
|--|-------------------------------------|
| Plate 1. <i>Zosterops cærulescens</i> . | Plate 3. <i>Pogonornis cincta</i> . |
| <i>Anthornis melanura</i> . | Plate 4. <i>Xenicus longipes</i> . |
| Plate 2. <i>Prosthemadera novæ zealandiæ</i> . | —— <i>gilviventris</i> . |
| | <i>Acanthidositta chloris</i> . |

PARTS IV., V., VI.—March 1888.

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|--|--|
| Plate 1. <i>Halcyon vagans</i> . | Plate 7. <i>Stringops habroptilus</i> . |
| Plate 2. <i>Eudynamis taitensis</i> . | Plate 8. <i>Spiloglaux novæ zealandiæ</i> . |
| <i>Gerygone flaviventris</i> . | <i>Sceloglaux albifacies</i> . |
| Plate 3. <i>Chrysococcyx lucidus</i> . | Plate 9. <i>Circus gouldi</i> . |
| Plate 4. <i>Platycercus auriceps</i> . | Plate 10. <i>Harpa novæ zealandiæ</i> . |
| —— <i>novæ zealandiæ</i> . | Plate 11. <i>Coturnix novæ zealandiæ</i> . |
| —— <i>alpinus</i> . | Plate 12. <i>Carpophaga novæ zealandiæ</i> . |
| Plate 5. <i>Nestor meridionalis</i> . | |
| Plate 6. —— <i>notabilis</i> . | |

We presume that a numbered list of all the plates will be given with the final part of the work.

65. *Carazzi on additions to the Birds of Spezia*.

[Appendice ai materiali per una Avifauna del Golfo di Spezia e della Val di Magra. Del Dott. Davide Carazzi. 8vo. Spezia: 1887.]

This is a short appendix to the author's list of the birds of Spezia (*cf.* *Ibis*, 1888, p. 134), and contains the names of some additional species, and corrections to the former list.

66, 67. *Chamberlain on Canadian Birds*.

[A Catalogue of Canadian Birds, with Notes on the Distribution of the Species. By Montague Chamberlain. 8vo. Saint John, N. B.: 1887.]

[A Systematic Table of Canadian Birds. By Montague Chamberlain. 4to. Saint John, N. B.: 1888.]

Mr. Chamberlain has lately published two very useful

works on Canadian Birds, and promises us, moreover, a complete bibliography of Canadian Ornithology, which is already "well under way." The Catalogue contains the names of the North-American Birds as yet known to be met with in Canada, in systematic order, with notes on the mode and frequency of their occurrence. The system adopted is that of the Check-list of the A. O. U. In the subsequently issued "Systematic Table," only the names, English and Latin, are given, together with the higher groups to which the species are referred. It appears that out of the 1028 species of birds now admitted into the North-American list 551 are registered as Canadian. Mr. Chamberlain in his preface makes some apposite remarks upon the vexed question of subspecies.

68. *Dubois on the Birds of Belgium.*

[Fauna des Vertébrés de la Belgique. Par Alphonse Dubois. Série des Oiseaux, Tome I. (1876-1887). 4to. Bruxelles: 1887.]

In this carefully compiled work, Dr. Dubois follows the old scheme of classification, and, commencing with the Raptores, places the Goatsuckers and Swifts among the Passeres, far away from the Woodpeckers, Cuckoos, &c., which we are accustomed to find united with them in the Order Picariæ. The letterpress is, as a rule, excellent, and great pains have evidently been taken with the geographical distribution, which is further indicated by small coloured maps accompanying each species. Turning over the pages, we see with some surprise that the author has omitted to notice the remarkable fact that all the Hawk Owls obtained in the British Islands have, with one exception, belonged to the North American, and *not* to the Palearctic form. Dr. Dubois distinguishes the slightly smaller and brighter-coloured Tree Sparrow which inhabits the Malay Peninsula and Java as *Passer montanus*, var. *malaccensis*. The book is rather bulky and inconvenient for handling, but certainly nothing so good in quality has hitherto been published in the French language.

69. *Emin Pasha's Letters and Journals.*

[Emin Pasha in Central Africa, being a collection of his letters and journals, edited and annotated by Professor G. Schweinfurth, Professor F. Ratzel, Dr. R. W. Felkin, and Dr. G. Hartlaub. Translated by Mrs. R. W. Felkin. London: 1888. 1 vol., 8vo.]

Few African travellers and explorers have done more for ornithology than Emin Pasha. Besides his excellent collections, his letters and journals, which are here given to us, contain many interesting notes on bird-life in Central Africa, and are well worthy of study. Here, for example, is what Emin Pasha tells us of the station of Agaru, in the Shuli country, about 4° N. lat., east of the Nile, and 3700 feet above the sea-level:—"Like Latuka, Agaru should yield many treasures to the collector. I found a Weaver-bird, resembling *Hyphantornis spekei*, but differing from it in its white under-jaw and throat; it is probably a new species. For the first time I met with the superb *Pholidauges leucogaster*, which appeared to be passing in small noisy flocks to the north-west. The Beef-eaters (*Buphaga erythrorrhyncha*), which prove such a sore pest to the cattle, were particularly numerous and bold. Kingfishers (*Halcyon semicerulea*), the beautiful *Ispidina picta*, and Bee-eaters (*Merops bullockii* and *M. pusillus*) sat on the bushes catching insects. The Hoopoe (*Upupa epops*) is also fairly common. Fringillidæ appear in legions at this season of the year, being attracted by the ripening corn. While in Tárangole, the place of the House-Sparrow is taken by the *Philagrus melanorhynchus*, it is here represented by the *Passer swainsoni*, a bird of the same group. Neither of them, however, build their nests in the huts. Altogether, the feathered fauna of this country is more closely allied to that of Abyssinia and the Somali-country than to that of our province."

Emin's "zoo-geographical notes," to which a whole chapter is devoted, are also deserving of careful perusal.

70. *Harvie-Brown on the Isle of May.*

[The Isle of May: its Faunal Position and Bird-Life. By J. A. Harvie-Brown. Proc. Roy. Phys. Soc. Edinburgh, ix. p. 303.]

Although the larger portion of this presidential address relates to the bird-life of the Isle of May, which lies at the entrance of the Firth of Forth, yet it is practically one of Mr. Harvie-Brown's interesting contributions to the subject of migration. A map and an illustration of the island—not unlike Heligoland in appearance—are given.

71. *Le Messurier on Indian Game, Shore, and Water-Birds.*

[Game, Shore and Water Birds of India. By Colonel A. Le Messurier, R.E. 8vo. Calcutta: 1888.]

This appears to be a new and revised edition of a work first printed in 1874, "for private circulation only." The arrangement and nomenclature are mostly those of Jerdon, and are consequently rather antiquated. But Col. Le Messurier's Handbook will be, no doubt, of much use to Indian sportsmen who require a convenient and portable volume. The illustrations will be of material assistance in this way. We think, however, that the range of each Indian species should have been concisely stated.

72. *Mansel-Pleydell on the Birds of Dorsetshire.*

[The Birds of Dorsetshire, a Contribution to the Natural History of the County. By J. C. Mansel-Pleydell. 8vo. London and Dorchester: 1888.]

This is a very useful and compact treatise upon the birds of the above county, not unduly swollen by the introduction of extraneous matter, but confining itself to the prescribed limits. It is illustrated by some very good woodcuts by Mr. G. E. Lodge, and by an adequate number of references to the standard authorities on British systematic ornithology. The typographical errors are not a few; we notice two in the head-line of Montagu's Harrier (p. 12), and two (one of an important date) under the Little Stint; while, owing we suppose, to unfortunate transpositions, the 'Ibis List' is made responsible for *Milvus regalis* and *Aquila lagopus* as the scientific names, respectively, of the Kite and the Rough-legged Buzzard, whereas those used were *Milvus iclinus* and *Archibuteo lagopus*! It is rather too bad to manufacture errors for this List after making the following charge in the

preface :—" As regards nomenclature—a difficult subject—the ' Ibis List,' which should be authoritative (having been published in 1883 by a committee of the British Ornithologists' Union), unfortunately contains many errors which, considering the reputation of the compilers, ought to have been avoided." Now we challenge the writer of this passage to make good his statement ; for whatever mistakes that List may contain, we hold that avoidable errors in nomenclature are not among them, and we consider the above-given remarks cast a most unjust slur upon a work to which great care was devoted by some of the most competent ornithologists of the country.

73. *Nehrkorn on his Collection of Eggs.*

[Mittheilungen über seine Eiersammlung. Von A. Nehrkorn. Jahresber. Ver. f. Naturw. z. Braunschweig, v. p. 117.]

Herr Nehrkorn of Riddagshausen, near Brunswick, a gentleman well known to many of us, gives a short but interesting account of his celebrated Collection of Eggs, which contains altogether examples of over 3000 species. We do not know the exact extent of the series in the British Museum, which is probably equally rich ; but it is much desired by ornithologists that steps should be taken to bring this important part of the National Bird-collection into better order, so that we may know what it really contains.

74. *Pelzeln and Lorenz on types in the Vienna Museum.*

[Typen der ornithologischen Sammlung des k. k. naturhistorischen Hof-museums. Von August von Pelzeln und Dr. Ludwig von Lorenz. Theil. II., III. Ann. d. k. k. naturhistorisch. Hofmuseums, Wien, 1887, pp. 191, 339.]

Messrs Pelzeln and Lorenz continue their useful list of the ornithological types in the Vienna Museum, of which we have already spoken (*Ibis*, 1887, p. 254). In the two parts now before us the Passerine birds are completed.

75. *Ridgway on the Species of Phrygilus.*

[On *Phrygilus gayi* (Eyd. & Gerv.) and allied species. By Robert Ridgway. Pr. U. S. Nat. Mus. 1887, p. 431.]

Mr. Ridgway holds that the specimen of *Phygilus gayi* (so labelled) in the Jardin des Plantes, which was examined by Selater and Salvin in 1869 (*cf.* Ibis, 1869, p. 285), was "not the type of that species, but one of Gay's wrongly identified specimens." Mr. Ridgway accordingly makes *Emberiza aldunatei*, Gay, = *Fringilla gayi*, and *Phygilus gayi*, Sel. et Salv., = *P. formosus*. This view, however, is not accepted by Mr. Sharpe in the Catalogue of Birds (xii. p. 781). Mr. Ridgway now gives the synonymy and characters of this group of the genus *Phrygilus*, and includes in it a new species from Lake Titicaca, which he proposes to call *P. punensis*.

76. *Salvadori on a new Hemixus.*

[Descrizione di una Specie del Genere *Hemixus* raccolta in Sumatra dal Dott. O. Beccari. Per Tommaso Salvadori. Ann. Mus. Civ. Stor. Nat. Genova, ser. 2, v. p. 525.]

The eight examples of *Hemixus* obtained by Dr. Beccari on Mount Singalan in Sumatra in 1878, and referred by Count Salvadori in his list of Dr. Beccari's collection to *H. malaccensis*, prove to belong to a distinct species, proposed to be called *Hemixus sumatranus*.

77. *Salvadori on the Caspian Plover in Italy.*

[La *Egialitis asiatica* (Pall.) trovata per la prima volta in Italia. Nota di Tommaso Salvadori. Atti R. Accad. Sci. Torino, xxiii. p. 44.]

On November 15, 1887, a specimen of this very rare wanderer to Europe was obtained in the flesh from a game-dealer in Turin, by Signor Enrico Marchisio, being the first instance of the occurrence of this species in Italy. It was said to have been shot on the banks of the Metaurus, fatal, it will be remembered, to the more distinguished invader Hasdrubal. Two examples of this Plover have been taken on Heligoland, but, with the exception of one obtained near Odessa, no others have been recorded on this side of the Caspian. In the reference "*(Mus. Britannico, fide Saunders)*," for its occurrence in the Altai Mountains, we think there must be some mistake.

78. *Seebohm on the Distribution of the Limicolæ.*

[The Geographical Distribution of the Family Charadriidae, or the Plovers, Sandpipers, Snipes, and their Allies. By Henry Seebohm. 4to. London: Sotheman & Co., 1887.]

This handsome work will, we are sure, be received with favour by all ornithologists, although they may not entirely sympathize with the views which our energetic coadjutor has put forward in it. For an account of these views, and of the circumstances which have induced the author to bring them before the public, we must refer our readers to Mr. Seebohm's preface—they are not easily explained in a few lines. It must suffice to remark that they have resulted in the production of a large quarto volume of more than 500 pages, beautifully illustrated, not only by numerous woodcuts inserted in the text, but also by 21 excellent coloured plates, drawn by the cunning hand of Mr. Keulemans. Mr. Seebohm expressly disclaims the term of Monograph as applied to his book, but diagnoses are given of all the species, and sufficient remarks to render it very useful as a book of reference. Amongst the species figured we may call special attention to the Magellanic Plover (*Pluvianellus sociabilis*), which for these last fifty years has been only known from two specimens. In 1887, Mr. Young obtained a third example out of a flock of five or six individuals in Tova Harbour on the coast of Patagonia.

We subjoin a complete list of the plates in this volume, as named by Mr. Seebohm:—

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|-----------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 1. <i>Charadrius rubecola</i> . | 12. <i>Cursorius cinctus</i> . |
| 2. — <i>sociabilis</i> . | 13. — <i>bitorquatus</i> . |
| 3. — <i>rufiventer</i> . | 14. <i>Himantopus pectoralis</i> . |
| 4. — <i>totanirostris</i> . | 15. <i>Tringa ruficollis</i> . |
| 5. — <i>monachus</i> . | 16. <i>Plegadis mitchelli</i> . |
| 6. — <i>obscurus</i> . | 17. — <i>cancellatus</i> . |
| 7. — <i>tenellus</i> . | 18. — <i>leucopterus</i> . |
| 8. <i>Lobivanellus albiceps</i> . | 19. <i>Rhynchæa semicollaris</i> . |
| 9. — <i>superciliosus</i> . | 20. <i>Scolopax rochusseni</i> . |
| 10. <i>Vanellus cayanus</i> . | 21. — <i>saturata</i> . |
| 11. <i>Cursorius somalensis</i> . | |

79. *Shufeldt on some Birds' Sterna and Skulls.*

[On a Collection of Birds' Sterna and Skulls, collected by Dr. Thomas H. Streets. By Dr. R. W. Shufeldt. Pr. U. S. Nat. Mus. 1887, p. 377.]

Dr. Shufeldt gives an account of a collection of sterna and skulls of birds made by Dr. Streets, of the U. S. Navy, in the north and south Pacific in 1884-85, and now presented to the U. S. National Museum. Several good illustrations are inserted in the text, amongst which we may call attention to the figures of two skulls of *Corvus corax sinuatus*, as likely to be serviceable to those who pin their faith to exact measurements.

80. *A. C. Smith on the Birds of Wiltshire.*

[The Birds of Wiltshire. By the Rev. Alfred Charles Smith, M.A. London: 1887.]

This work is described in the preface as being "a plain account of the Birds of Wiltshire, written by a Wiltshire man and for Wiltshire people;" but its bulk is considerably increased by the insertion of a great deal of matter relating to the author's experiences abroad, especially in the south of Europe and in Egypt. These, together with Mr. Smith's remarks upon the vernacular and local names of birds in many foreign countries, mingled with scraps of folk-lore, will be very interesting, no doubt, to a larger circle than the inhabitants of Wiltshire, but they have no particular reference to that county. We will not take exception to the classification and nomenclature adopted by the author, for he disarms us by plainly stating that, as a member of the B. O. U., he honestly tried his very best to fall in with the new scheme as set forth in the 'B. O. U. List,' and gave it up in despair! This surrender will, however, hardly excuse him for writing *Laniadæ* and *Charadriadæ*, and as each of these errors occur twice, they cannot be attributed to the printer. Again, with every respect for Mr. Smith's old-fashioned habits, it is rather too much to find the Bustards placed among the Struthionidæ, and the Petrels included amongst the Laridæ! We also regret to see the list of Wiltshire birds swollen by the insertion of such species as the African Buzzard, Great Black Woodpecker,

Gold-winged Woodpecker, Cayenne Rail, and the Canada, Egyptian, and Spur-winged Geese. Mr. Smith, who finds no difficulty in assuming that examples of the last two are genuine wanderers all the way from Africa, rather than unpinioned birds which have escaped from semi-confinement, questions the propriety of considering the Mute Swan as a British bird, although it breeds in a wild state (or did so until quite recently) no further off than the south of Sweden, and is frequently seen on the wing in this country. We are also sorry to see that by calling the Little Owl *Noctua passerina*, instead of *Athene noctua*, he conveys the totally erroneous impression that the Least or Sparrow-Owl has been obtained in Wiltshire, whereas it has never occurred in any part of our islands. Perhaps the most interesting portion of the book is that containing the description of the Wiltshire Ravens and the Raven-trees, still, or until recently, frequented.

81. Sousa on two new Birds from Angola.

[Descrição de duas espécies de Aves de Angola da exploração do Sr. José d'Anchieta. Por José Augusto de Sousa. Jorn. Sci. Math. Phys. e Nat. Lisboa, no. xlv. p. 105.]

The veteran explorer Anchieta has sent to the Lisbon Museum the specimens upon which Sr. de Sousa now proposes to found two new species, *Chætura anchietæ* and *Cisticola dispar*.

82. Sousa on the Birds of Angola.

[Aves de Angola. Por José Augusto de Sousa. Jorn. Sci. Math. Phys. e Nat. Lisboa, no. xlv. p. 105.]

In this paper is given a list of 67 species of birds, of which examples were obtained by Sr. Anchieta at Quissange in the latter part of 1886. Two new species represented in the same collection were described in the paper above noticed.